

TOCH JOURNAL

February
1957



NEWS • VIEWS • IDEAS



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Index

Readers who bind their copies of the JOURNAL in yearly volumes are invited to send a 2d. stamped addressed envelope to the Editorial Office for a copy of the Index to Volume XXXIV.

Diaries

Oddly enough, there are still some copies of the 1957 Toc H Diary remaining on our shelves. If you have not yet secured one please do so now. The cost is 4s. 0d., or fitted with pencil 4s. 6d., either kind being postage free.

Theatre

The Torch Players will be presenting *Sheppey* by Somerset Maugham, at Wimbledon Town Hall, S.W.19, Monday to Thursday March 4-7 at 7.30. For free numbered and reserved seats send a stamped, addressed envelope direct to Patrick Partridge, 95 Melrose Avenue, Wimbledon Park, S.W.19.

Acknowledgements

The pictures reproduced on pages 62 and 63 are from photographs taken by Gordon Brown, and the drawings on pages 72 and 73 are the work of Geoffrey D. Robinson.

Advertisements

Enquiries from Advertisers with products of interest to our readers are most welcome. Rates and details will be readily supplied. Readers can greatly help by letting us know of manufacturers prepared to give consideration to advertising their products in the JOURNAL.

Ourselves

The Toc H JOURNAL is published monthly, eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to all Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

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Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view, and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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Cover Picture:

The 'Do-it-yourself' campaign spreads to Mark III, Hackney, where the Warden and Marksmen give a new look to the entrance hall.

Editorial Office:

Toc H, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1

Telephone: VICtoria 0354.

IN AND OUT

Notes and Comment

Planned Extension

THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT ONE OF the "constructive consequences" of last year's Power Conferences is now being reflected in reports, from widely separated Areas, telling of Expansion Teams getting down to the job.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to the spread of Toc H is encountered in the shyness and diffidence of many a good member when called on to explain the Movement's aims and objects to others. A possible way of overcoming this difficulty is outlined in the article "Making Contacts" on page 74 of this issue, and we are looking forward to publishing details of other workable methods that are proving successful.

It is a mistake to rely solely on the power of the printed word—or a duplicated letter—to draw men to Toc H, and the best laid plans will not succeed if due regard is not given to developing close contacts that lead to warm personal relationships.

Problem Children

THOSE READERS WHO ARE TODAY IN CLOSE contact with young people will find a special interest in the understanding and authoritative article "You and Crime" in this issue, which is singularly free from technical terms that so often bother the layman. The writer served as a Lieut.-Commander in the R.N.V.R. during World War II and today is a visiting physician at two London hospitals and also visiting psychiatrist to a London remand home.

Four Miles to Uganda

WE SAID 'GOODBYE' TO BEN MILES THE DAY before he took-off with Catherine, his wife, and the two youngsters for Uganda, where he will by now have teamed-up with Charles Potts, the Hon. Commissioner, and Aggrey Willis in one of the most exciting and exacting jobs that Toc H can offer. Ben is of course an old overseas hand, having served a long apprenticeship in Services Clubs in North Africa, Malta and Germany, followed by a spell as East London Area Secretary and later putting in three years as a Resettlement Officer in Malaya.

Dinky Toys

ALL CHILDREN AND MOST GROWN-UPS ENJOY handling the brightly coloured miniature vehicles known as 'Dinky Toys', but it is unusual to find a Schoolmaster who deliberately encourages his pupils to play with them in class. A London member has devised a scheme for using them to help his class of handicapped children master the intricacies of simple arithmetic. To complete the scheme he needs a big quantity, and any gifts of old or unwanted 'Dinky Toys' would be greatly welcome if sent direct to: S. J. Neilly, 11 Brookside South, East Barnet, Herts.

Flanders Vista

LAST SUMMER, PETER BENNETT WENT ACROSS to Belgium and took a large number of outstanding colour photographs. The pick of these—and it was difficult to make a selection—have been made into a Filmstrip, under the title "Over There", which provides a colour-filled account of a journey *via* Bruges and Ypres to Poperinge and, of course, the Old House. Additional to the pictures, a tape-recorded commentary has been made by Barclay Baron, and the combination of the two provides a most attractive item for Guest-nights and other Branch gatherings.

Picking Winners

FROM A WEST MIDLANDS READER COMES details of a plan to ensure the election of a good Branch Executive. Before the Branch holds its A.G.M., every member is asked to write out his own list of the men who are, in his opinion, most suited for the various offices to be filled. A 'discreet and reliable' member is then chosen as teller, and he co-relates the lists showing that the majority of members consider 'A' to be the best future Jobmaster, 'B' for the position of Chairman, and so on. He then quietly approaches each of the chosen men and finds out whether they are able to accept nomination. From then on the procedure is obvious and our informant concludes, "our new Executive now has the utmost confidence in and of their fellow members".

Interest Sustained

A TOC H BUILDER ENROLLED IN 1931, NOW aged eighty-six, in writing to the Bursar says "I regularly use the *Pocketful of Prayers* and will not lose interest in Toc H. It was introduced to me by my nephew, since killed at Arnhem."

YOU AND CRIME

by PETER D. SCOTT

A penetrating study written in non-technical language of the problem of juvenile delinquency viewed from the individual offenders' angle and also that of the community.

CRIME, especially juvenile crime, is a topic upon which most people have an opinion. I expect you have yours. But you are a distinctly special person in this respect. You read journals and, moreover, you have chosen to read an article clearly dealing with crime. How would your opinion compare with others? Let's take a common example of juvenile crime—delinquency if you prefer it, and see.

First, which are the really common juvenile crimes? There is good reason to suppose that the commonest are those which never come to light! Even of those more serious (indictable) crimes which become known to the police, only half are cleared up. Since we cannot very well study these undiscovered crimes (unless by introspection!) let us look at a typical young offender who was so unlucky, so unskilled, so slow in running away, or perhaps so courageous as to break the eleventh commandment, "Thou shalt not be found out".

Youthful offences

Our offender will surely be a boy and equally surely will have committed an offence against someone else's property. Ninety per cent of the offences of youngsters up to seventeen years of age are of this sort. Over half their offences are plain stealing, and another quarter "breaking and entering". It is rather an astonishing fact that only seven per cent of all "breaking and entering" is carried out by men of thirty years or over; it is pre-eminently an offence of youth. So let us take a good dishonest case of breaking and entering.

John shall be his name and his age thirteen. He and his two companions are immediately a source of interest to the patrol as they furtively convoy a pram towards the local scrap merchant. Any doubts as to the nature of the cargo are dispelled by noting the groaning springs, the absence of babe, and the nonchalantly arranged sacking draped over the 'vehicle'. This is indeed a fair cop; another hundredweight of 'bluey', wrenched untimely from roof and sink, is confiscated.

"We was playing and our ball went on the roof, and there it was, all done up in a sack", is the time-honoured explanation, but nevertheless the party (less one whose running only temporarily delays the reckoning) turns towards the police station. They wait, their initial defiance ebbing, until mother or father struggling with alarm, protectiveness, anger and hurt pride, returns from work to collect the errant offspring, and to be instructed when to attend the juvenile court.

Now a person's feelings about such an offence will be governed by the breadth and depth of his understanding of it. If it was that very person's window that had been smashed and his house despoiled, his vision might understandably be halted at the actual evidence—" . . . the damage is estimated at £20, the boys admitted considerable destruction to paint-work and furnishings, which appeared to be of a wanton nature". Less understandably, yet very commonly, those who as children were taught 'good' behaviour by excessive fear, are extremely intolerant of misbehaviour in other children: they tend to repeat the methods and mistakes of their own training. They are apt to say "I was thrashed, it did me no harm, look at me now". If only they *would* look at themselves! But they see only the damage to material things, they do not see the damaged life that led to it, and least of all their own restricted understanding and the reason for it.

Damage to community

On the other hand is the fellow who says: "It's all a storm in a tea-cup, these juvenile courts send kids away for only nicking a bottle of milk; boys will be boys and it'll be a bad thing for England when they're not—it's only adventurousness." Yes, it may be; but if it is only adventurousness it should not go too far and should respond to sensible measures. We can't get away from the fact that juvenile crime is a real drag on the community. It is not as bad here as in some countries; indeed many Americans cannot believe that we just do not have juvenile drug addicts, organised gangs, really dangerous armed hold-up boys, to any extent at all.

Yet there it is: a third of all serious crime is juvenile crime, and, though there may be offences no worse than stealing from a car, there were during 1954, in England and Wales, 1,819 juveniles dealt with summarily for stealing bicycles, nearly 7,000 shop and house breakings, over 1,000 malicious injuries and so, dismally, on. Consider too the time and money

spent in charging, finding guilty, and dealing with very nearly 60,000 juveniles each year, two and a half thousand of whom annually go to approved schools. The total national expenditure for a financial year, on police, approved schools, remand homes, prisons and Borstal institutions, has recently been estimated at £57 million.

It looks as though we must try to see the problem both from the individual delinquent's angle and from that of society. Whether it be adventurousness or original sin there is the practical question, how much can society tolerate and pay for.

Besides the innumerable "answers" to this problem which people confidently propound, there is a tendency to clamour for immediate action then to forget the matter until the next crisis arises. It was so 140 years ago, when a special committee reported on the "Causes of the alarming increase of Juvenile Delinquency in the Metropolis". And even in those days it was the unfortunate "faulty parents" who were placed first in the list of causes. It looks as though delinquency and crime has always been alarming and that the main variable is public interest in it. In 1904 a careful observer wrote of London's adolescents "War is often waged between them, weapons are used and murder is not so very infrequent", and this was before the days of Teddy Boys.

No one method

The only generalisation which seems justified is that no one method of handling the problems of delinquency could succeed. Many approaches are needed, for delinquents themselves can be demonstrated to vary enormously in the causes of their action, in what they feel about it, what treatment they need, and in the outlook as regards repetition. This is reflected in the present complex machinery behind the juvenile courts: punishment in detention centres, reminding them (on Saturday afternoons) in attendance centres, training in approved schools, advising, assisting and befriending through the probation officer, adjusting them in clinics, and, not least, preventing them, in the youth and other services of the community. You can be sure that anyone who thinks he has *the* answer to juvenile or any other crime is talking through his hat. Large numbers of delinquents are only on the fringe of crime and are very easily corrected by minor adjustments which, nevertheless, leave the hard core quite unaffected.

To go back to young John ; he will be home by now. If you could be invisibly there and know what to look for, you wouldn't want reports from probation officer or psychiatrist to help you understand the case. If John, his mother and his father talked over the matter sensibly together and if John showed genuine contrition, the outlook would be very good. But mother might shield the boy from father for fear of violent punishment or because she prefers to hold the control of family matters in her own hand. Father might not care about the boy, or might accept such happenings as inevitable. Mother might, with her hostile nagging, drive the boy out to like-minded lads with whom the offence is repeated. There are many patterns, even to mother getting a hidden satisfaction through her son's misbehaviour.

John himself may be a well set-up boy or, on the other hand, he may be handicapped in some way: he may never have succeeded in building up a confident, self-reliant outlook for himself ; or he may have failed to establish healthy personal relationships with others. Such handicaps are not due to isolated happenings but are acquired over years, especially the early years when a child should be learning to fit in with his family. If he doesn't learn that lesson, you can be sure that he will not subsequently fit in easily into any society outside the family.

Take a look too at his earlier life ; was he a happy, contented, reasonably naughty child, able to work up to his capacity at school, having a circle of friends, and a number of interests ? Really troublesome delinquents have somehow failed to grow out of the awkward stages that other children cheerfully leave behind ; they continue to have temper attacks, or to pilfer, or truant ; they may even, until recently, have been unnaturally good, afraid of mixing with other boys, and over-dependent on 'Mum' ; these are the ones who are sure to have a great deal of difficulty at adolescence when the pressures upon them to cut the apron strings become very strong.

Disturbed young people

Certain types of crime or bits of behaviour gather associations and suggest conclusions. For example the offence of bag-snatching seems invariably to indicate a very disturbed young person with good reason to hate, and retaliate against woman-kind. One would agree that scrumping apples in an orchard, or its urban equivalent, "knocking them off" a street

stall may be a matter of mischievousness, but I cannot ever remember a bag-snatcher who could be regarded as such. The breaking open of the electric meter in a boy's own home is very suggestive indeed that he has little respect for his parents and *vice versa*. If a girl of thirteen or fourteen takes to heavy make-up, seductive clothes, and spends nights out in car parks with older males it is much more probable that she has a hostile mother who has dreaded her daughter's maturing, than that the girl really gets any enjoyment out of sexual activities. Combinations or constellations of symptoms are likewise often very clear pointers. A history of very early, repeated wandering from home, often as early as three years of age, usually means that the child for some reason was unable to make an affectionate relationship with its mother, that it had no sense of belonging: if this symptom is followed by stealing and truancy then the problem will be very resistant to treatment.

Associated symptoms

Certain associated symptoms such as bed wetting or truancy have so many different causes as to be meaningless without further investigation. Some children don't really run away from school, so much as run to their home. These will always have dreads of something terrible happening at home while they are away. In others, to go to school becomes the central point of a battle of wills between the child and his parents. Such a child refuses school not because he dislikes it but because he feels he will lose his individuality if he conforms. A third sort of truant is he who attends school until he feels threatened or frightened and then simply takes avoiding action; such children do the same in other threatening situations and usually run away from home as well; he will probably later on have great difficulty in keeping employment and may be involved in persistent, impulsive, but rarely serious stealings. Everyone appreciates the healthy youngster who has enough courage to hop the wag on a fine summer's day, but these do not appear in juvenile courts, for they also have enough good sense to know when to stop. There is a sort of truant, too, who is bodily in the classroom but truant in mind; he sits at the back of the classroom and, rather than risk derision, does not compete at all. Such youngsters can emerge at fifteen still unable to read or write, yet sometimes teach themselves quite quickly once away from the school atmosphere.

These examples could be multiplied, but they only illustrate the probable meaning of the delinquent act or omission. They always need checking against the facts as obtained by, often rather dull, routine investigations. No two cases are ever quite the same and there are surprises at every turn—thank goodness.

Besides the nature of the causative or disturbing factors, we have to consider how strongly they have been acting, and this is very important because the natural resilience and resourcefulness of children usually overcomes all but the most serious difficulties. Despite some false starts and diversions, an acceptable compromise between their needs and those of the society in which they live is found. Only where several factors act together in high degree do we find a severely delinquent individual who will help to swell the 'hard core' of crime. These are the ones that need specialised attention.

Don't let's get in a panic and mistake every youth with a sheath knife for a desperado; sheath knives are handy for sharpening pencils and for impressing the girl friend—and they can seem so difficult to impress when you are fifteen or so and have got to go back home and be told to wash behind your ears). There have been bright young things in the market places of the world, frowned upon by their elders, for ages. Most of them only need time to find their way into useful society; too much attention, especially hostile attention, is bad for them.

Prevention matters most

Putting first things first—prevention is what matters most: immediate prevention through an efficient, fully manned police force, remote prevention through educating the next generation on points in the basic psychology of children (normal psychology, not the morbid, dramatic distortions that can result from mismanagement).

While we are about it we may as well settle all the other political and social ills of the world, but even then a quota of criminals would survive. For in reality they are not a people apart; while most of them have emerged temporarily to swell the criminal ranks, they will soon comfortably rejoin the mass of conforming individuals—the men and women in the street. For this very reason it is unlikely that measures directed at this volatile criminal population will be very successful, the whole of complacent society needs attention and, alas, somewhere complacently in the mass are you and me.

FAIR CRY

NOTES AND NEWS
FROM DISTANT PARTS

Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN

OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN

FROM TIME TO TIME we are able to give the latest news of the Botha's Hill T.B. Settlement in Natal. This item of domestic gossip, culled from *The Compass*, brings us up to date. It is about Reuben Nkomo, a boy who was first brought into hospital about eight years ago, "looking like a little hunted animal". His legs were curled behind him and he was covered with bed sores; his future seemed unpromising. During the years the hospital cured the pain, straightened his legs and supported his body with calipers. He came to Botha's Hill (the Zulus call it "A Place of Hope") fairly recently, soon after the Rehabilitation Centre was built.

Every day starts at the Settlement with a service and prayer and Reuben asked if he would be allowed to conduct one of such services. His address was magnificent in its simplicity. He lifted up his head and said in Zulu "I am a cripple and I am not as you are, but there is something which keeps me going and at peace inside of me and I see many of our handicapped people here. I feel I must tell you what keeps me at peace. One day I was born and knew nothing about it and one day I must die as all of us must die and no one worries about it because it is a natural thing. But when I die and go to my Creator I know that He will not say—'Reuben you have left your crutches and all things which hold your body together—go back to the Earth and get them'. Ah, no, said Reuben, "He will want me just as I am and if that keeps me at peace, surely it can keep you all at peace too". Then they sang "Praise God from whom all blessings flow".

ELDERLIES IN ALBANY

Bob Marshall, once our Hon. Commissioner for Western Australia, sends this note about an annual event in Albany.

The seed of Albany's Old Folks' Party was planted by my late wife in '29, along with a few Toc Emmas (as was the label for women members then). Invitations were sent out to the "senior citizens" of this fine old seaside town, some thirty-five pioneers accepted, and the inaugural party was voted by all those who sat around the tables, as a grand idea.

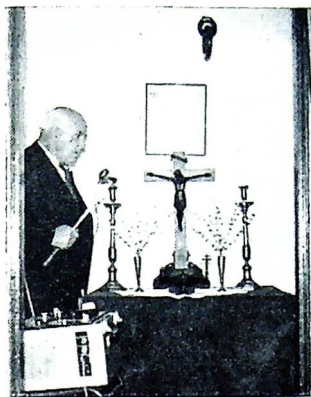
As the years rolled on, the number of folk who have graduated to the status of "senior citizens" has grown con-

siderably, and to see the present set-up being directed by the Albany Toc H and Women's Association members to cater for 220 last night was a grand effort indeed.

Try to imagine an assembly of this number, whose ages ranged from fifty years to the Nineties (aggregate years 1,100 if my maths. serve me well). Once a year then sees this fine gathering assembled under the one roof, Food and Fellowship are fine companions and the whole evening, closing with carols and home-going prayers, surely is something worthy of taking a little of my leisure to tell you about.

The transportation of this number of aged folks is something to conjure with, but under the direction of Vic Rasmussen and his team of brothers and sisters in the Toc H family, is a mere bagatelle.

THE ROCK LIGHTHOUSE



John Mason called last week at about 4.45 p.m., having left Gibraltar on leave that morning. We were able to relieve him of this photograph of a very familiar figure. 'Jock' Brown, the warden at the Services Club at the South Bastion. It was taken during the observance of the World Chain of Light in December. The Chapel is the old powder magazine, dating back, I suppose, to the fifteenth century, and one of the oldest buildings used by Toc H anywhere.

CORNEA GRAFTING, TASMANIA

A letter from D. A. Southwood, now in Tasmania, mentions the efforts being made by Toc H to inaugurate an Eye Bank. To begin with they expect that the plan will operate under the aegis of the Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, which receives eyes from sources in and beyond Melbourne and supplies them to any specialist in Australia.

'THIS GODLY CUSTOM'

by REX CALKIN

The World Chain of Light was observed once again on December 11 and 12. Any earlier account would have delayed publication of the January Journal.

"THE TOC H FAMILY of Christian faith and quiet service, gladly and freely given, gathers each year in the World Chain of Light. This Godly custom has proved precious to a high degree. . . ." Thus wrote Tubby. Without a doubt the custom proved no less precious to hundreds of Branches last December when again they took note of the two birthdays and stood by their Lamps at 9 p.m. by their own time. (One Cornish Branch might have adopted a different position, if a newspaper report were to be believed—that the members shared in the "World *Chair* of Light"!)

The dates falling on a Tuesday and Wednesday in each half of the world, there was no general intention of keeping vigil throughout the time, and yet it was managed for various periods at home and overseas, notably in South Africa and, for example, in the Baptist Church near the Toc H House in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

Reports from various sources show that the scene of the normal observances around nine o'clock included churches of all kinds, chapels of hospitals and disabled men's homes, a county borough's guildhall, town halls, village halls, hotels, branch meeting-places, and members' homes—and too Talbot House, Poperinge, while Tubby himself was at the Mark in Toronto.

In Belfast

The Chain was started by the lighting of a Lamp of Maintenance in Belfast by a son of the Rev. H. E. King, who, when Hon. State Padre of Toc H in Western Australia, shared in the first observance in Perth in 1929. With Chad King were Harry Ince and Bill Bradford. The Rev. J. R. Musgrave led the preparation, the address being given by the Rev. Alan Buchanan. During the Vigil maintained throughout the twenty-four hours by men and women, services were conducted at midday by the Presbyterian padre, the Rev. R. J. Boyd, and at the close by the Bishop of Connor and the Rev. W. E. Drury, late of Wilton, now of Killashandra, Co.

Cavan. The scene of this was the Belfast Chapel of the Missions to Seamen, a happy link at the end of their centenary year.

The message from Toc H in Northern Ireland that went to Branches around the world was one of many that helped to bring home the essential unity of kinship and purpose among those who uphold "this Godly custom".

Power Conferences and Consequences

by JAMES EVE

The impressions of one who saw most of the Power Conferences in 1956 and hopes for much to come as a result of them.

SOME YEARS HENCE 1957 may be "the year John Callf went to Australia" or "you know, that Festival in London" or "when we started as a group". Perhaps none of these, but to some members at least, last year, 1956, will certainly be "Power Conference year". To how many? Oh, about 1,200. Well, perhaps more by contact, by the infection of a good spirit.

Let's have some facts. Last year between March and November Power Conferences were held in fifteen places, sited within the triangle of Cumberland, Devon and Kent. The numbers present at each ranged from 46 to 210, an average of 95. In all, 1,423 members attended. This figure included fifteen Women's Association members and some members from overseas and some of the Central Executive and Staff who attended more than once.

For each week-end (with the exception of one which was open to all) the intention was that each Branch should select as their representatives three or two members, not all senior in length of service. It was noticeable how high a proportion of those attending had become members within the last ten years. There were 550 Branches (over half) represented by 1,246 members at the Power Conferences.

At some time in the previous year or more, many of these Branches must have discussed the Forward Committee's report *Something to Bite On* in cold print. The Central Executive had had the notion that the next step was to convene this

series of house-parties, at which men from different Branches would pool their ideas and interpret the big issues in personal terms of action with their neighbours. Much time and care were taken in deciding the main theme and in reducing the programme to fit into twenty-four hours without overmuch loss of sleep. In spite of this the time-table was hard going. Four or five main talks, two sessions of group discussion, devotions on the Sunday morning and time for questions—these left only short gaps, meal times and midnight hours for informal chats by a mixture of men from a variety of places.

Some found this programme difficult to digest. Others found that the note of urgency gave a greater sense of need. If any old hands were critical at the start, many must have gone away heartened, even exhilarated. Certainly many new hands did, as their spoken verdicts and letters have shown.

The Next Ten Years

What was all the talk about? Certainly not an assessment of history. "Hats off to the past", by all means, but "coats off to the future", "the only thing that we can do anything about." The labels given to the practical matters thought to be of prime importance can give no more than a vague idea of the content of the programme: Looking—Fellowship—Listening—Jobmastery—Pressing On. This is not the place for a summary of the paper sent out beforehand or of the various ways in which different speakers tackled their subjects. There was freedom of choice and much variety in presentation. In the discussions resulting, every conference seemed to have a different emphasis. To take one example, read of the subject-matter and of questions aroused in the mind of one member, John Adam, writing his "After-thoughts on a Power Conference" in the Winter 1956 number of *New Forum*.

Naturally and rightly criticism, fault-finding, doubt, even defeatism, were apparent at times; so was frank humility. The humour and the personal witness will be best remembered. From the enthusiasm and the vigour displayed there must follow some clear, fair and wise thinking and some lively action. These would indeed be good consequences.

Let it be on record that all but one of the week-ends were blessed with good weather. The first night of all fifteen produced the much-quoted "God's frozen people", but it was fine every time except once—and then it rained. Good old Manchester! Not bad for last year, and it helped.

One undoubted benefit was the chance for Branch members to meet some of the Central Executive members and to know that they too were Branch members but doing a special job. "They", the Central Executive members, and the whole-timers no less, learnt a lot and liked it. The outcome here is a strengthening of the bonds and of mutual confidence.

More Opportunities

One of the most interesting and provocative sessions was "Question Time", when a panel of four or five Central Executive members answered questions of which notice had been given. A total of over two hundred were dealt with in this way, and others were asked and answered in two-way discussions between floor and platform.

That Toc H has special methods of approach and distinctive characteristics goes without saying, and yet at times much ignorance in this regard was revealed. The evident thirst for knowledge pointed to the need for far more facilities for learning of these basic matters.

One consequence of this is the suggestion that some of the more frequently asked questions should be asked and answered in the JOURNAL from time to time. As to requests for this series of Conferences to be repeated, it has been decided that they will not be arranged centrally, this year. There are plans for some weeks and week-ends and there will be opportunities given in some Areas and Districts for similar work on a whole-day or week-end basis. Branch Executives will be wise to take note of the announcements and select their men accordingly. (Is it fair to suggest telescopes instead of microscopes?) However strong the life within a Branch appears to be, it needs the infusion that comes from knowing men in a wider field and seeing a larger picture. And then not so much the facts as the ideas and the ideals will come back to be worked upon vigorously where the effect can be greatest and deepest.

As has been said elsewhere, attendance at a Power Conference was for many men a revealing, encouraging and exhilarating experience. These experiences have now passed, and shown us some failings as well as great hopes. In the mind of many members these Conferences were an undoubted success. "In all things," said Confucius, "success depends upon previous preparation." In the case of these Conferences it also depends upon constructive consequences. And these have still to be worked out in the wills of men.

MULTUM || MUCH IN PARVO || IN LITTLE

✽ Padre HUGH SAWBRIDGE, much better known as "SAW-BONES", who began his whole-time Toc H work in Leicester thirty-five years ago, now continues his service in the Western Area with undiminished zeal in an honorary capacity.

✽ NEW YEAR HONOURS: Congratulations to Sir ROBERT TREDGOLD, Hon. Commissioner of Toc H in Central Africa, on being made a Privy Councillor, and to both the Rev. F. W. HILBORNE, D.C.G., member of the Services Team, and DUDLEY HERRING, member of Orpington Branch and the Central Executive, on being appointed C.B.E.

✽ The AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, from February 9 to 17. The first conference session will be opened by H. E. The Governor of Tasmania, Sir Ronald Cross, and the Administrator, John Callf, will be taking part in the full nine-day programme.

✽ Dr. LEONARD F. BROWNE, Vice-President and Trustee, has been elected Vice-Chairman of the London County Council for 1957-58.

✽ CENTRAL COUNCILLORS are due to receive now and to forward by February 28 their notices of motion and nominations of candidates for election to the Central Executive. These will be considered at the annual meeting on May 4-5.

✽ ALL MEMBERS who have renewed their membership for 1957 should have had it registered by now and be in possession of current Membership Cards.

✽ The WEEK-END at Nash Court, near Tenbury Wells, Worcs., on March 16-17. Leader: Oliver Wilkinson. Requests for bookings to the Hon. Dist. Sec., D. P. Hodges, 7A South Street, Leominster, Herefordshire.

✽ FIT MEN of under thirty can now claim their places from June 22 to 29 at the Twenties Camp, which will be based on the Wayfarers' Lodge, The Langdale Estate, Great Langdale, near Ambleside, Westmorland. Cost: about £4. Names to Iain Fraser, 4 Coles Drive, Arnside, via Carnforth, Lancs.

✽ FARNHAM CASTLE WEEKS from August 4 to 31 for members, families and friends. Booking forms for use on March 1 now available from The Warden, F.C.W., 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

½ **TOC H SCOUTERS** and other members and friends will be getting together at the Jubilee Jamboree in Sutton Park, Birmingham, on Tuesday afternoon, August 6. The speakers will be J. F. Colquhoun, O.B.E., of Boy Scout Headquarters (and once of Mark VII), and the Bishop of Thetford, the Rt. Rev. Pat Leonard, who will also preach at an evening service in Sutton Coldfield Parish Church. The Toc H representative on the Jamboree Committee is Noel Cartwright, 82 West Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, 20, to whom enquiries should be addressed.

½ **BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL:** Saturday, December 7, in London.

by **JOHN WILSON**

Hon. Area Correspondent, Oxford & Thames Valley.

LESS THAN A DOZEN and a half of lines of print in the December JOURNAL, on page 370, under the heading "Books in Braille" may spell many hours of disappointment and loneliness for some people, many of whom are members of the Family of Toc H. These lines say quite simply that there will not be a Toc H Braille Annual this year.

It takes a long time to learn to read or write Braille, and yet the whole system is based on six dots, numbered from one to six. To the sighted person Braille is fascinating. To the blind it is the only means of communication with distant friends, the only way of being able to read. Would you like to see an example of Braille? Try this:—


 T O C H

The dots for "Toc H" would look like that.

Braille is little over 100 years of age. It was invented by Louis Braille in 1829. He was blind himself from the age of three. He discovered the "dots" as we know them today by the accident which caused his blindness. His father was a saddler. Louis loved to play about in the saddler's shop. Doing so one day, he slipped, and the awl, with which he had been punching holes in a piece of leather, pierced his eye, causing total blindness. In later years Louis thought that if the

awl were used to punch part way through the leather, a raised dot would be left on the reverse side, which could be felt by the fingers. That was the beginning of the system which bears his name now, and which has been a profound blessing to countless numbers of blind people all over the world. The "fellowship of dots" is a happy one indeed.

If you know of any member of your Branch who will miss the Annual this year, would you let me have his name and address. An experiment is being tried, by which it is hoped that such members can have at least some extracts from the JOURNAL or other Toc H Literature (some of it is literature at least!). Packets go out from time to time, and I have a list of blind members and friends. The one on the way now is Herbert Leggate's *The Tyranny of Words* (a good illustration here. The booklet as published contained only thirty-six small pages. In Braille it worked out at over seventy large pages).

If you yourself are interested in the scheme, please write to JOHN WILSON, 5 Garvin Avenue, Beaconsfield, Bucks. I shall not reply asking for money, although some unused current halfpenny stamps would be extremely useful; that is the cost of postage for the blind.

OLIVIER

Tipped Cigarettes



You'll enjoy this successful cigarette. Blended from fine tobaccos and specially tipped for coolness and flavour, Olivier cigarettes maintain the Benson and Hedges tradition for quality at an economical price.

Specially blended for

Gurme Olivier

BENSON and HEDGES LTD.

Who's Who ON THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE

WILFRID ERNEST PALMER

'Wep' first met Toc H when the Bath and Taunton Branches started Yeovil, and he later became Chairman of the South Western Area. He has served previously on the Central Executive. His wife was for four years Chairman of the corresponding body of the Women's Association.



He was born in East Anglia; educated at Bishop's Stortford College, and graduated at Cambridge and Leeds in Science. He served in the infantry in Mesopotamia, and on the staff of a training brigade, and was twice mentioned in despatches. After the War he lived in Belgium, France, the United States and Canada, and in recent years undertook a technical mission to Somaliland, Aden and the Sudan.

As a glove and leather manufacturer and head of a famous firm, he has held various national administrative and technical offices. He is particularly keen on Rotary, on Education and Hospital Administration, and is an eager amateur naturalist.

MICHAEL G. W. A. HARRIS

Washing-up an apparently never-ending pile of crockery at the war-time Toc H Services Club, Reading, while a schoolboy, was Michael's first introduction to the Movement. At the age of seventeen he became a member and his work as Jobmaster of Reading Branch brought him in touch with Boys' Clubs and led to a full-time job with the N.A.B.C., where he is now an Executive Assistant. He has held many Branch, District and Area offices, served as Vice-Chairman of the Central Executive (1953-54) of which body he is today still the youngest member. He was also Hon. Warden of Mark VII (1953-56) and now shares a bachelor flat devoting a fair amount of time to culinary studies. He is quite certain that co-operation with Toc H Women's Association needs to be on a personal basis and is at present busily engaged in putting this into practice.



The Elder Brethren

BELLAMY.—On December 12, EDWARD BELLAMY, aged 62, a member of Burnley Branch. Elected 4.12.'46.

BULLOCK.—On November 15, EDWARD ERNEST BULLOCK, aged 74, a member of Nairn Branch. Elected 25.3.'52.

COCKS.—On December 3, ARTHUR RICHARD COCKS, aged 77, a member of Landrake Branch. Elected 15.4.'53.

COLLIS.—On December 3, WILFRID COLLIS, aged 43, a member of Sneyd Branch. Elected 14.3.'51.

COOPER.—On August 23, EDWARD HERBERT COOPER, aged 74, a member of Middleton-on-Sea Branch. Elected 1.7.'55.

DYER.—On December 1, ARTHUR SAM DYER, aged 57, a member of Martock Branch. Elected 21.12.'37.

JANES.—On December 10, PETER FREDERICK JANES, aged 27, a member of North Rhyl Branch. Elected 26.2.'51.

MOREY.—On October 17, SIDNEY MAURICE MOREY, aged 57, a member of Portsmouth Branch. Elected 30.10.'52.

PATTON.—On November 24, the Rev. JOHN PATTON, aged 80, a founder member of Longtown Branch. Elected 16.3.'49.

VERNON.—On August 31, WILLIAM VERNON, aged 76, a member of Middleton-on-Sea Branch. Elected 22.3.'46.

In Memoriam : Owen Spencer Watkins



Owen Watkins, who died on January 9, little short of his eighty-fourth birthday, had an experience of military service that few Army chaplains could rival. A year after entering the Methodist ministry he was on active service in Crete, a year later (1898) he was with Kitchener at Omdurman and helped to conduct the memorial service for Gordon at Khartoum. A year after that he was in the South African War, where he saw heavy fighting and endured the siege of Ladysmith. In 1914 he went to

France as senior Methodist chaplain to the B.E.F. and took part in all the most famous engagements—the retreat from Mons and the Battles of the Marne, the Aisne and Ypres in 1914-15, and of the Somme in '16; the Armistice found him in Italy as Principal Chaplain to Lord Plumer's forces. He returned home as A.C.G., Eastern Command, and then went to the War Office as Deputy Chaplain General.

In 1927, while still D.C.G., he was appointed an Hon. Association Padre of Toc H, and when he left the Army in 1929 Joint Administrative Padre, alongside Pat Leonard. The first year of his office he spent helping Toc H in South Africa, and in 1936, before leaving the staff, he went out there again on another long visit. In 1940 he was made a Vice-President of our Movement, on which he left a mark, both at home and overseas, which endures. For Owen was a true man of God, a notable Free Churchman, a most wise counsellor, a delightful companion, with a fund of fascinating and often amusing experiences to tell. For him our proud thanksgiving and to Mrs. Watkins our deep sympathy are due.

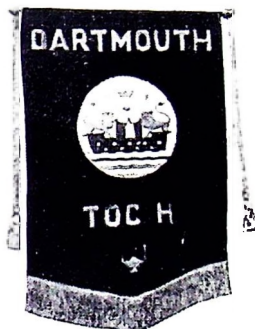
BRANCH BANNERS

XXVIII DARTMOUTH

Contributed by R. WHATELEY

WORKED in heraldic colours, the Banner of Dartmouth Branch shows the Town's seal. In common with many other seaports, the device is a ship, but this one is unique in showing a king in the ship with the lions of England at the bow and stern. The king is probably Edward I. who secured the independence of Dartmouth from the up-river town of Totnes.

The device also shows a star and crescent; these are thought to commemorate the part played by Totnes in the Second and Third Crusades, during the twelfth century, when it was the port of assembly for the fleet.



HOLIDAY C

by F. G. SWO



DOVER: The white cliffs—the last sight of England, for eight days.



BRUGES: A quiet spot reflected in the canal's still waters.



BRUSSELS: A battery of cameras in action at the Cinquantenaire.

A SMALL SHOP in a Brussels candle shop, caught my eye. I was at least surprised to have an Englishman in the summer—after all it is his business. Last night, Belgian candles shone through my flames took me back to a sunny morning, a few members and friends, nearly all of them, met at Victoria Station.

The Dover boat-train marked the last station than a memorable holiday. In just a day 'family': to see something of another world to find out for ourselves whether it was old Ho of a different age to those to whom we go our hopes were richly rewarded.

Most of our party were making first time. I had to be a case-hardened traveler who had seen medieval Bruges and I still envy those who have when seeing those magical illuminations.

Five days based on a comfortable Brussels, especially when two of them are up in Ghent and Antwerp. With so many museums and before your very eyes the individualism of the city into what one member described as the best.

With so many tastes and inclinations to be thought that some would be disappointed with museums but 'the shops' and store Cornish and one other everyday attraction provided. Besides, it is not every day that you walk in the interior, as in Ruben's house at Antwerp, or the fortress in Ghent, or loose an arrow through the footprints of an exiled Englishman.

Last year the number of visitors to Brussels tours have already been arranged for 1957. I will manage to include several Gas members if possible for several members from Brussels.

CANDLES

WORTH

...k street, its windows crammed with
summer, especially some red ones,
stars. The shopkeeper wasn't the
... buying Christmas candles in mid-
... sell them—and so, on Christmas
... y London window. Their glowing
... a few months earlier, when twenty
... wn to each other, met by arrange-

...t stage of what was to prove more
... days we hoped to become a happy
... ountry and its people; and finally,
... House still holds a message for us
... ce gave so much. In all these things

... first visit abroad, but it would have
... o failed to fall under the spell of
... e whose first impression is gained
... s.

... Bruges hotel pass all too quickly,
... up in coach visits to Brussels and
... ce and share it is not surprising that
... aking up the party become merged
... e best Branch yet".

... to be taken into account, it might
... with a surfeit of cathedrals and
... Continental cafés and a thousand-
... provide a compensating balance.
... walk slap into an authentic Dutch
... o, climb the ramparts of a medieval
... he oldest archery court in Europe—
... ng.

... a post-war record and so still more
... 1957. My hope is that every party
... s members and that it will also be
... Branch, together with their wives



ANTWERP: Shipping on the Scheldt waterfront presents an animated scene.



GHENT: Castle of the Counts of Flanders, the strongest fortress in N.W. Europe.



POPERINGE: Stowing luggage before saying 'goodbye' to the Old House.

or girl friends. to share together in the experience. I doubt whether many of them will bother to bring home a supply of candles, but they will certainly all return with vivid memories that will last a lifetime.

Here are details of some of the tours now being booked for this summer. The cost of those covering eight days (Saturday to Saturday, with seven nights accommodation) is approximately £18 from London to London, inclusive of excursions, and members or their friends who would like further information should write *direct* to the leader concerned.

BELGIAN TOURS, 1957

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| April 19/22
Easter | North Western Area, Women's Association.
Mrs. DAVIDSON, Cross Cottage, Kirkby Lonsdale,
Near Carnforth, Lancs. |
| June 7/11
Whitsun | Western Area.
W. F. BROOKER, Toc H. 16 Charlotte St., Bristol, 1. |
| June 15/22 | Kent and Sussex Areas.
C. A. CATTELL, St. Catherine's, Highfield Road,
East Grinstead, Sussex. |
| June 22/29 | F. G. CHESWORTH, Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis
Street, London, S.W.1. |
| June 29/July 6
July 6/13 | F. G. CHESWORTH, as above.
J. H. CLARK, Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis
Street, London, S.W.1. |
| Aug. 17/24 | South Eastern Region, Women's Association.
Miss RUBY RELF, 8 Cumberland Walk, Tunbridge
Wells, Kent. |
| Aug. 31/Sept. 2 | Women's Association Mixed Party.
Miss ELSA PERRIN, Crutched Friars House, London,
E.C.3. |
| Aug. 31/Sept. 7 | F. G. CHESWORTH, Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis
Street, London, S.W.1. |

Conversation Piece-3

by JACK HARRISON

FILLIP: ". . . and the old capitation fee, which so many members seem to regard as on a par with a subscription to a sports club or something of that kind, was in fact no more than the approximate cost of registering a man's membership in Headquarters and Area records. You can hardly call that a membership sub unless you want to get Toc H on the cheap."

ALF: Alright, I know all about that but this last two years we've been asked for thirty bob a head and now we're asked for fifty-two. Why can't we stick to one figure and have done with it?

JIM: Do you mean to tell me, Alf, that you've only known of this 30s. average for two years? Why, it was put forward in 1951 and again in 1953 when all Branches were challenged to contribute at least thirty shillings per member.

FILLIP: *And moreover in 1951 we were working towards a total income of £50,000, and £20,000 of this came from sources outside the membership. At that time I believe the membership was close on 20,000 and if we had managed 30s. per head that would have produced the balance of £30,000 we needed.*

ALF: Well, we haven't got there yet—what's the sense of changing the target when we haven't yet hit the blinking thing?

JIM: That's not altogether true, Alf. Our Branch has hit it steadily for the last three years, more by luck than judgement maybe, and I know at least five Branches who have done a lot better than 30s.

ALF: I know all that, Jim, but if you read the annual reports you'll find that Toc H as a whole is still floundering about between 20s. and 30s.

FILLIP: *We've got to face facts, Alf. You're right when you say we've been floundering along these last few years. Our financial position and our staffing position were both seriously weakened because the membership would not take the 30s. challenge seriously and failed to respond on a large enough scale. On top of that we are constantly being faced with new conditions. Since 1951 the annual cost of maintaining the Family has gone up to £60,000 whilst the membership has fallen below 18,000. So the 30s. figure doesn't fit anymore.*

ALF: Don't you think it's a bit silly expecting a falling membership to cover an increasing expenditure?

FILLIP: *That's about the most sensible thing you've said yet. Yes, I do agree if the membership goes on falling we shall reach an impossible position. That's one of our major problems. We want men, not to solve our*

financial troubles but for their own sakes. The whole point of Toc H is to bring more and more men into contact with this Christian fellowship on active service. We've been failing in our duty by and large in this direction, and we ought to pull our socks up.

JIM: And incidentally help solve the problem of maintaining the Staff we need if we are to do our job in the world.

FILLIP: *Precisely—a by-product if you like but an important one.*

ALF: Well, I don't know what's come over me, it must be Christmas or New Year Resolutions or something, but if a bob a week would do it I'm beginning to think it should be easy. Anyway, you can count me in.

JIM/FILLIP: *Good old Alf. Wonders never cease.*

ALF: They don't, do they? But I've been thinking a lot about Toc H this last few months and if a bob from me every week is needed I'll give it out of my pocket and blow all these jumble sales. I'll stand my own corner in this. Just one thing, though. Why doesn't the Central Council make it a compulsory sub and have done with it?

FILLIP: *Well, they might have to. But there's a lot of us who believe that good sound traditions willingly accepted and observed are better in the long run than compulsory rules and regulations. And a tradition whereby a Branch collectively makes a contribution of at least one shilling per member per week leaves its individual members free to make their own contributions to the Branch in accordance with their means and their loyalty to the Family.*

ALF: Phew! You've spilled a bibfull. But I expect you're right. It's like joining a Church. If anybody insisted on a compulsory membership sub you'd think they'd gone balmy. At the same time you know there's expenses to be met somehow.

JIM: There's just one other thing that's bothered me a lot, and I know there isn't time to deal with it now, but I've heard lots of chaps ask why we don't sell some of those investments we've got if we're so hard up?

[To be concluded.]

TOWARDS UNITY

The Necessity of the Church

by BISHOP CARPENTER-GARNIER

JUST OVER a hundred years ago the Prime Minister of the day exclaimed in the exasperation of his soul "Things have come to a pretty pass when religion claims to interfere with a man's private life."

Very much less than a hundred years ago it was by no means uncommon to hear such a remark as "It does not matter what a fellow believes so long as he lives a decent sort of life." And even today there seem to be some, if not many, who say, or think, "Thank goodness, I don't belong to any church : I just go along my own way. But of course I am a Christian all right."

But as a matter of fact in our own day there happens to be an increasing number of thoughtful people who are becoming more and more interested in and concerned about not only what are commonly called 'the churches', but particularly about the Church of Christ—the Church as Christ intends and wants it to be.

Now what is the secret and meaning of this revived interest? It is due very largely to the increasingly strong recognition of the urgent necessity of the unity of all Christ's followers in one great fellowship, in accordance with His prayer "that they all may be one".

Startling fact

If we turn to the Bible and try to find out what is taught there about the right way of serving God, we are met at once with the startling fact that never is it suggested that a self-sufficient individualism is the right way. Indeed from Genesis to Revelation the story of the Bible is the story of the Church of God. At first, in the Old Testament, from Abraham to the time of our Lord, God's Church is identified with one nation, His chosen people, the Israelites. With the coming of Jesus Christ a tremendous portent appeared. God Himself, the eternal Son of the eternal Father, took human nature and became man without ceasing to be God, and lived amongst men right down here on the ground. He was born of a Jewish mother, and lived and worshipped as a member of the Church of that time.

But he came to be both Saviour and Redeemer; to save and redeem not only the members of one race, but no less than all mankind everywhere and throughout all time.

To this supreme mission He brought divine power; but first He had to open the way of salvation, and make reconciliation between sinful man and the Holy God. But the perfect offering of His own life, while wholly sufficient for the salvation of the whole sinful world, must be proclaimed and made effective to all men in every generation and in all lands.

How was this to be done?

Christ had His plan, and very soon in His ministry it began to take form. He called a small band of chosen members of the Jewish Church to be with Him. These men He taught and trained, as we learn in the Gospels, and gradually He led them to see something of what was in His mind, and what He had come to do.

Then came the awful horror of the crucifixion, followed by the glorious fact of His resurrection.

Christ's plan

This was the moment for the unfolding of Our Lord's great plan. The little company of His faithful followers was to be the nucleus of a re-constituted Church of God. And the mission of this Church of the new age was to be not to one nation only, but to every nation under heaven; no longer a national Church, but Christ's Catholic Church—a Church for all nations throughout the world. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

Think of such a task! And one to be taken in hand by a small band of ordinary men! But God never calls to a great task without giving sufficient strength. So we read "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me unto the uttermost part of the earth".

With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit another tremendous portent came into man's experience. The re-constituted Church of God became a spirit-bearing body. And very soon it was realised that every single person, who was made a member of the Church, was given a share in the life of this one Spirit.

Thus something more of Christ's plan began to be made clear. He was ever to be the Leader and Saviour of all His followers. And more than this. He was ever to provide the way by which He was to be present amongst them, and even

give each one a share in His own perfect life. For this, and nothing less than this, must be the consequence of the divine gift of the Holy Spirit to His Church.

Already in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles we are told how the corporate life of the Church began to take shape : "they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

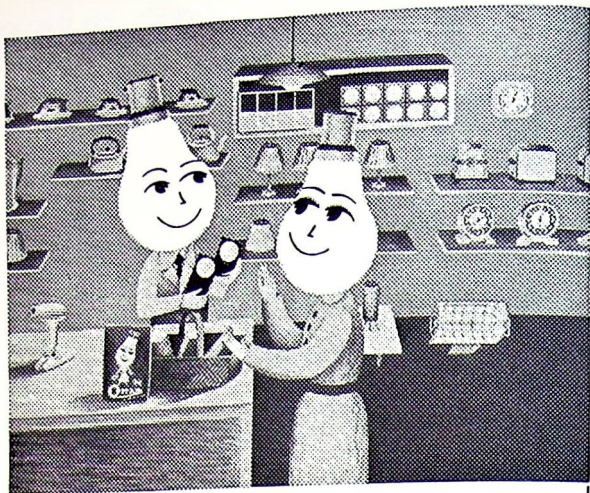
Now the more this great truth of the life in Christ was pondered over, the clearer was realised the fuller wonder of Christ's plan. Being the Teacher, Saviour, and Redeemer of the whole world, He was ever to be the Christ of Today in every generation. And He was to carry out His mission in and through all His members. Yes, *all*; not only those first apostles; not only through their successors; and today not only through clergy and ministers. But in and through every one of His members Christ wills to go out in every age to all parts of the world. For every member of His Body is a Christ-bearer, and is called, in every walk of life, both to carry Christ's life with him, and also to bear witness to Christ in his own world.

Need for order

But still this life with God, is not to be lived in isolation. Nor can Christ's commission to evangelise the whole world be carried out in any haphazard manner. There is need not only of the right message to deliver, but also there is need for due order and disciplined life. Only the truth and power of God can evangelise the world, and He has chosen to use man as His agent on His behalf. So we should thank God that the Holy Catholic Church exists today, and that in His Church is to be found both His truth and due order with adequate power for the carrying on of Christ's work. Yes! the one holy, catholic and apostolic Church of Christ does really exist today, and through baptism we are made members of it, and by Christ's gifts of life and strength we can be nourished in it.

It is sadly true that the outward unity of the Church, through the sin of man, has through the centuries become broken ; but in spite of this the Church of Christ is an actual and an essential fact today.

The great and glorious task of all lovers and followers of Christ in this age is to labour to discover the way along which all divisions within the Church may be healed, and all the sheep of Christ may be gathered together into one flock under the one Shepherd.



*A couple of Osrams if you
please, I've never known
lamps as good as these!*

Osram

THE WONDERFUL LAMP

A **sec** product. The General Electric Co. Ltd.

Makers of the famous Osram fluorescent tubes



Bill Goes On

by JOHN DURHAM

The first instalment of this new series started last month with 'Bill' Davidson picking-up the threads again after his young wife's death. He now attends his Branch meeting, where a forthcoming Power Conference is discussed.

I DROVE BACK to Swantown on the Monday morning feeling more at peace with myself than I had done for months. It wasn't that I was missing Kit any the less, but somehow things seemed to be settling down into a right perspective. Of course I had known all the time that the last thing Kit would have wanted me to do was to go about looking like a dying duck in a thunderstorm, and thereby making myself an infernal nuisance to everyone. It's a pity that so many of the true things in life are platitudes, like "time heals". Well, it hadn't healed me yet, but I knew it was beginning to do the job. In the process the Padre and his wife at Oldacre had played more than a little part, and I was immensely grateful to them.

There was a busy week before me, and I had filled it with work which I couldn't very well get out of, so I didn't get to a meeting of the Branch until the following week. I had lost the Branch Programme—one of those duplicated efforts which personally I hate, believing that money is well spent on printing—so I hadn't the remotest idea what was on for the evening. I rather wished I hadn't made up my mind to go, for it was raining cats and dogs when it was time for me to start out.

Mike, reliable as ever, was there when I reached the room.

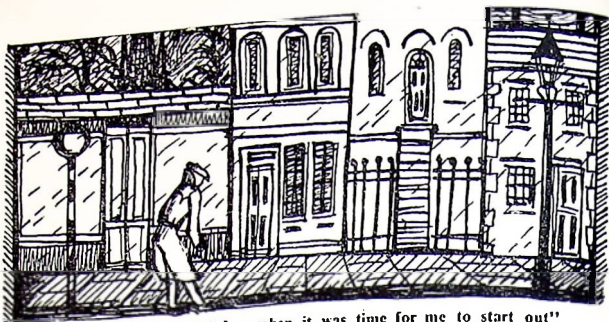
"Did you have a good time at Oldacre?" he asked, as soon as I had shaken the water from a singularly disreputable cap.

"Yes, thanks, a very good time indeed. I feel lots better for it. It was a good idea going, I think. What's on to-night?"

"A thrilling evening," put in Lofty who had been engaged in washing-up some dirty crocks from the last meeting. "And the confounded tea stooge never washed these things up last week. A thrilling evening, I say. We are going to transact business."

"A grouse night," I asked, "or just general business?"

"Oh, I don't know that there will be much grouse going on," said Mike. "It seems to me that the blokes at present



"It was raining cats and dogs when it was time for me to start out"

haven't enough enthusiasm in them even to grouse. Hand them something on a plate, and they'll swallow it down. They haven't even got it in them to be browned off. Which is precisely what I am."

Coming from Mike this shook me quite a bit. He was usually a cheerful chap, and it was due to him that the Branch had started and had got on its feet. I felt a bit guilty that I had kept out of things for so long.

"I don't think it's quite as bad as all that," said Hawkeye who had come in with 'Other-Half', his co-Padre. "It's what often happens to a Branch. It gets a lean time, when nothing seems to go right. Rather like a cross-country runner—though, thank heaven, I've never engaged in that exhausting sport, always seemed to me a queer way of seeing the countryside—who thinks he's going to die and then gets his second wind and comes in first. We'll be alright if we hold on for a little longer."

"Well," said Mike, "I hope you're right. And I hope this little longer won't be very long."

"You know, Mike," put in 'Other-Half', "it really isn't as bad as you think. If the Branch were really on the rocks you wouldn't get the chaps turning out on a filthy night like this."

"I give you that," replied Mike: "my real grouse is that there's no real life when they get here. What's the use of a row of living corpses? Alright, I know it, I know it. It's partly me. Time we began."

We had got into the habit of beginning with tea; not such a bad one, I think, for the blokes who can't help being a bit late still get their tea and don't miss the business. We sat nattering about this and that, and then it was time for 'Light'.

I saw Lofty, who had become Chairman, look across to Hawkeye who nodded back. Then, to my surprise, Lofty said "Will you take 'Light' to-night, Bill, please?" I hadn't done this or been asked to do it since Kit was killed. When something like this has happened to you, 'Light' comes to mean much more than it did; and as I said the familiar words I thought of her rather than of any of the other folk who had been "lights in their several generations". To me, at any rate, she had been a light.

The business we had to transact was of the kind that is familiar, perhaps too familiar, in most Units. A request from the Secretary for suggestions for speakers in the next programme; an appeal by the Treasurer for subs.; silence from the Pilot; "nothing special" from the Padre; and a rather desultory discussion about a job which might come off, but apparently equally well might not come off. So far it seemed that Mike had been right. We weren't a morgue, but we were extraordinarily like a collection of wax-works with gramophone records inside them which started when the appropriate string was pulled.

"Well, now," said Lofty, "what are we going to do about the Power Conference? Mike has got to put in the return by the end of this week, and you'll remember that so far we haven't found anyone to go."

"Let it rip," said John. "It can't be as important as all that. The whole country is lousy with Conferences, and whoever heard of any good coming out of them?"

I wasn't altogether surprised at this reaction. John Brown had been the major problem child of the Branch in its very early days, and it had been with some misgivings that we had elected him to membership. Nobody could have truthfully described him as a leader!

"It'll be a great pity if the Branch isn't represented," said 'Other-Half'. "It isn't quite true about no good coming out of Conferences. I think there was one in the very early days of the Christian Church, and that those present felt something very real had happened to



"washing-up some dirty crocks"

them. They talked about the Holy Spirit and tongues of fire, being 'on fire' I suppose they meant."

Mike was obviously going to explode, and the explosion came. "I think it'll be an absolute disgrace if the Branch isn't represented. We like to think. God forgive us, that we're a bit more lively than some other Units in the District; but we're so damned lazy that we can't rake up three blokes to go. That's the true reason, and not finance or our families. I hoped to go, but it's very doubtful whether I can get away from work in time. The Padres can't make it, because it's at a week-end. Is there any honest reason why three of you shouldn't go?"

There was a bit of an awkward silence after this, and then Lofty said "You can count me in, but I shan't be able to get there until the Saturday evening. The trains are absolutely lousy from here."

"Where is it?" I asked.

"Swanwick, in Derbyshire," answered Mike. "A hell of a journey by rail, pretty easy by car."

"I'll go if I possibly can, but in any case I can't get there until the evening, like Lofty," said Mike.

There was a bit of a silence. Then I heard myself saying, "I'll go. Lofty and Mike can come in my car."

On the way home I said to myself, "Now, what on earth made you say that?" But I knew why. Kit had done it again.

[To be continued.]

Making Contacts

by KEITH REA

WHEN facing up to the question of extension, many members are often tantalised by the thought that within a small radius from the Branch meeting-place there must be a number of men who, if only they knew of Toc H's existence, would welcome its fellowship and willingly take a share in its service. On paper this looks an easy proposition, but before it can be translated into action some solution must first be found for overcoming the average Englishman's disinclination to approach a stranger.

A difficulty that affects many of us, is that we find it well-nigh impossible to explain the Movement's aims and objects in a concise manner which will arouse immediate interest. For one thing, many of the terms and phrases in current use within the Movement are completely meaningless to those outside our ranks.

What is required, I think, is some gimmick that will fit the occasion, be interesting but not inquisitive, and will enable a member to meet a stranger on his own doorstep and successfully pave the way to a personal relationship.

In recent years such a way has been found to secure an expression of public opinion on any conceivable subject and with such effect that election results, for instance, can be forecast with a considerable degree of accuracy. These opinion surveys take the form of questions asked at doors and afterwards collated into concise results. If a large enough 'sample' of people are interviewed, a reliable guide to the views held by a cross-section of the population can be readily produced. It should be well within the power of any Branch that means business to produce a set of questions that they would wish to ask their friends and neighbours. Such a list might possibly run something along these lines :

What do you like best about living here in Blanktown ?

What feature do you most dislike about life here ?

Are the old folk well catered for ?

Is it possible for a person to be lonely ?

Are the teenagers a problem ?

Have you ever heard of Toc H ?

Would you be interested to help in some voluntary project ?

From this list of suggested questions, it will be seen that the 'object of the exercise' is not primarily one of recruitment. Twelve members undertaking the canvass can between them make 120 new contacts. Among these contacts they will be sure to find some interested folk willing to help the Branch in one way or another, and better still, may be able to provide a pointer to some need in the community not at present being catered for.

The names and addresses of 'victims' can readily be obtained from the Register of Electors and allotted to members at the rate of ten names per man. It might be found necessary to use two successive Branch meeting nights to provide sufficient time for members to make the canvass, and the subsequent follow-up will also call for thoughtful preparation.

Some Branches have tried this experiment which has somehow acquired the label "Octopus". To date, the results have been varied; contacts have been made and lost, some local needs discovered and, without exception, those taking part have enjoyed the experience and been surprised at the welcome received and the interest shown in the work of the Branch.

The application of this idea is an expression of faith in our Movement. I believe that a personal contact is worth a hundred printed pamphlets and that the personal approach is today's answer to today's problem of making contact with men and women whom we so much wish to know better.

There are, of course, a number of details, which cannot be tackled within the limits of this short article and should you be at all interested or provoked, please write to "Octopus", c/o Editorial Office, Toc H, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

'Scouts of To-morrow'

Between 1946 and 1953 the number of Boy Scouts (between the ages of eleven and fifteen) decreased by 6,000. Although the same years showed a very large increase (about 50,000) in the number of Wolf Cubs, this leakage of boys at the critical age of adolescence was clearly serious and much thought has been given to the reasons for it. The leaflet *Scouts of Tomorrow** recently published, sets out the decisions of the Chief Scout and the Committee of the Council arising out of these investigations.

A good deal of the leaflet is concerned with internal matters but the factor over-riding all others appears without doubt to be the quality and quantity of leadership available.

J. F. Colquhoun's article, *Seen any Scouting Lately?* in the July JOURNAL makes very clear the needs of Scouting so far as leadership is concerned. This leaflet adds a sense of urgency to his appeal and emphasises again the many ways in which "lay supporters", who do not feel themselves able to become warranted Scouters, can ease the situation. It is to be hoped that many Branches not already in touch with the local Scout District Commissioner will seek him out.

A.G.C.

* Published by the Boy Scouts' Association. Price 6d.



FROM ALL PARTS *DIRECT from AREAS*



WESTERN—In spite of the restrictions caused by petrol rationing, Toc H Extension Teams in several parts of the Area are still hard at work—lists of likely folk are being prepared and contacted prior to initial meetings, and Teams are all taking particular care to get a good mixture before making any start. Branches are sending in their Membership Rolls and Branch reports and the following is an extract from the end of one Jobmaster's report: "There was also the job of moving furniture for an elderly lady who had decided not to have it moved when we arrived to do the job!" Thanks to the hard work of members in certain parts of the Area, we are proud to know that the Western Area was second on the list of numbers of new Builders recruited during the last financial year.

FRED BROOKER.

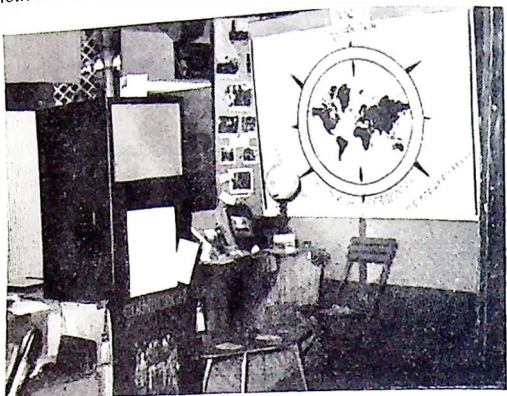
SUSSEX—**Wisborough Green** group had a busy time sawing and delivering logs for needy folk. It was a big job but most rewarding. **East Grinstead** had a Special Effort for the Family Purse at Christmastime when they sent out a Carol Party on four nights. Apart from the excellent financial result of £12, some new contacts were made. It was yet another example of the interest that exists towards Toc H and its work on the part of people at present outside the Movement. It also showed how great a responsibility is laid on the membership in this matter of 'personal contact'. CYRIL CATTELL.

W. LONDON—A small but tireless band of **Wembley** members have kept the patients' library at the hospital going for no less than twenty years. The Branch collects papers and magazines, some of which go to the Wembley Eventide Home and some to St. Nicholas Hostel for Youths, which is run by the National Institute for the Deaf. The deaf hostellers are on most friendly terms with the Branch, and their outlook appears to have brightened considerably as they discover themselves eligible for many normal activities. "Getting to know the Borough" has been the theme of a number of meetings recently. The chaps at **Harrow Weald** seem a bit restless—they've changed their meeting place twice in the past few months but are now happily fixed up at the Infants' School, opposite the Alma Café (Thursdays 8 p.m.). A new job is being tackled at the Old Friars Youth Club, where members run the canteen on Mondays and Fridays. Congratulations to **South Ruislip** on obtaining Branch status recently. They are struggling hard to increase their membership, and hold lively meetings regularly attended by the 'staunch nucleus'. **Chelsea** organised a concert, given by the **London Toc H Male Voice Choir**, in Fulham Town Hall in aid of the football commentaries from Stamford Bridge, now broadcast to five West London hospitals. **Wimbledon** are co-operating with Kingston Rotary Club in a winter series of film shows for home-bound people. The Branch are providing and showing the films at a church hall, and the Rotarians transport the people from and to their homes.

MAYNE ELSON.

S. LONDON—Branches in the Springpark District went out carol singing on several evenings before Christmas Day in aid of special causes. Coney Hall were able to provide another television set for the Children's Heart Hospital, West Wickham. A church on wheels, designed and constructed by Pickhurst Green, was taken round by the Branch and also used by the whole District on the Saturday before Christmas in the West Wickham High Street, when £10 was collected for the Family Purse. The Rev. John Tatum, Croydon Branch Padre, has been appointed to the benefice of Holy Trinity Church, Bromley Common, Kent.

SAM EVANS.



The Toe H stand at a recent Edinburgh exhibition. A rear-projection unit was used to demonstrate films used in the Home-bound Cine Service.

SCOTLAND—Edinburgh Central Branch held their Rededication Service on December 11. The Service was led by Padre Ken Bloxham, who afterwards talked to the Family Gathering of some fifty members and friends. A Christmas party was given by the Branch to the boys from Dr. Guthrie's School—a good time was had by all. Selkirk Branch twenty-one years young, and a service of Rededication was held on December 12, in St. John's Church, led by Padre Hannah. The World Chain of Light was included in the service and messages were read from other Branches. A Family gathering was held in the Church Hall afterwards. One of the members of Selkirk Branch has in his charge some 500 Hungarians and it looks as if the Branch will be much involved in caring for this group. Tillicoultry distributed some eighty parcels to old folk in the town. Seventy-five bags of firewood, all chopped by hand, were also delivered, so the home fires will be burning bright in Tilly. Crieff are responsible for Old Folk in their town and 150 of them were entertained to a very good meal and concert, the concert party came all the way from Tillicoultry. I was with this party, travelling through the fog and snow, though this caused little trouble to the party, who put on en route, a very good concert, which was repeated on the way back.

JOHNNIE MACMILLAN.

NORTH WESTERN—Birkenhead have completed a long and interesting chapter in the history of their Branch. Faced by the mounting cost of major repairs, they have sold the house which has been their home for twenty-five years, and a centre for Toc H men and women and for a whole galaxy of meetings, clubs and good causes which have sheltered under its roof. During the war, it became a Toc H Forces Club, staffed largely by the women while the men were away on war service. Now a new chapter has opened and the Branch has removed to 187 Old Chester Road; they meet there on Fridays at 7.45 p.m. All good wishes to them for a happy and useful future. **Hoylake & West Kirby** Branch has also removed and now meet at the Deeside Boys Club on Mondays at 7.45 p.m.

JIM GREEN.



This recent picture is of three generations of one family who are all members of Swaffham (Norfolk) Branch, and shows Anthony Brady with his son Tony and grandson Lawrence.

YORKSHIRE—Branches throughout the county have been busy with their Christmas jobs, toys for the children, and parcels and parties for the old folks. **Hull and District** made their usual distribution of toys, which they had collected and repaired. Congratulations to **Cleckheaton** on being recognised as a Branch, and on receiving their Lamp on January 21. The new Unit at **Sowerby** (Halifax) are helping in the new Cheshire Home—White Windows, and **Easingwold** are visiting the one at Alnc. At White Windows, we welcome Jim Jacques from **Le Court**. Several interested men are still meeting at **Bradford**; whether it will become a permanent thing or not, is still very much in the "lap of the gods". There is a good number of interested men at **Dewsbury**, but they are finding it difficult to get a room at a reasonable figure. In the near future it is hoped to start meetings in **Rotherham**, **Hedon** and **Hornsea**. **Goole** Branch have ideas about **Thorne**. Here is the correct solution to our **Find the Towns** competition: 1, Ewell; 2, Neath; 3, Stockport; 4, Penistone; 5, Avingdon; 6, Rottingdean; 7, Mumbles; 8, Baslow; 9, Withernsea; 10, Bedale; 11, Mayfield; 12, Beer; 13, Matlock; 14, Hedon; 15, Long

Eaton; 16, Dereham; 17, Lampeter; 18, Brandon; 19, Knowle; 20, Bridgend; 21, Kingsford; 22, Broadstairs; 23, Kilburn; 24, Bury St. Edmunds; 25, Kidsgrove; 26, Redcar; 27, Gateshead; 28, Flint; 29, Hungerford; 30, Cowbridge.

JOHN MADDOCK.

N. LONDON—Southgate members obtained permission to take parties of patients from the Highlands Hospital at Winchmore Hill to football matches on the Arsenal ground at Highbury. The first party of four were taken in November, and much enjoyed the afternoon. **Barnet** have been given Branch status and will receive the Garton Lamp (the one held by the former Branch) at a District Gathering on Monday, February 18. Their membership is slowly but surely increasing. Well done Barnet!

MAYNE ELSON.

SOUTH WESTERN—Port Isaac Branch. In conjunction with Rotary, succeeded in raising, in the last twelve months, enough money to build a new Physiotherapy Building at Bodmin Hospital. This will fill a long-felt want. As a result of the efforts of **Barnstaple group** a television set has now been installed at the Alexandra Hospital.

GILBERT FRANCIS.

OXFORD & THAMES VALLEY—Old members of Toc H are worth their weight in gold, in starting a group. They were invaluable in helping to start the **Henley Joint Branch—Branch, mind you!**—which is flourishing. It has not worked so well at **Beaconsfield** where some first members of the group have unexpectedly left the district. The need to meet the situation had an interesting result. The members of the group have had meetings in the local Spastics' Home where they found a welcome. Some of these handicapped young men and women have brilliant minds. They get much kindness and help—but they do not often get the chance of striking sparks with other minds in the discussions, arguments and surprises of a Toc H meeting. Among them is a young man who, under other circumstances, would make an excellent Prime Minister; another who would make a brilliant comedian; a girl who could be a fine actress; and a most attractive musician who plays the accordion propped up with straps on a couch. All these young men and women burst with laughter—if given half a chance. The meetings are good because they are needed.

OLIVER WILKINSON.

BEDS. & HERTS.—Biggleswade paid a visit to the Cheshire Home at Ampthill where the occupants' main need is for "somebody to talk to". Any members who will spare a little petrol to bring personal friendship to these men, who include a Cambridge member, can obtain information from Jack Bardin, 15 Warren Road, Ampthill. Boys from an Approved School assisted **Sawbridgeworth** in sawing sixty sacks of logs, which were given to needy people with parcels donated by the Women's Association, delivered on lorries lent by local tradesmen. Peter Piper, a blind member of **Watford**, is active in arranging for the relay of football commentaries for a local hospital.

FRANK R. FIGG.

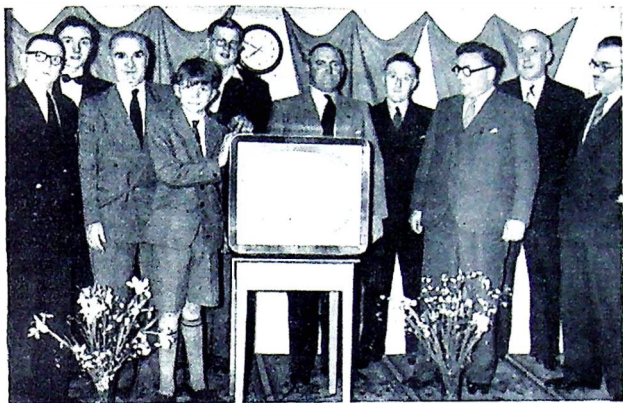
SOUTHERN—After two or three weeks of "Will he?" "Won't he?", **Greeno** was discharged from hospital on Christmas Eve. He is now at home and allowed up for a few hours a day, but still under doctor's orders. (That last bit is as much a reminder to him as news to anyone else reading this.) Inky and Mrs. Bean have been greatly

encouraged by the news that grants will be forthcoming from the King George's Fund for Sailors and the Merchant Navy Welfare Board for the improvement of Talbot House Seafaring Boys' Home.

BOB KNIGHT.

EAST MIDLANDS—From all parts of the Area are reports of activities with the Hungarian Relief Fund. House-to-house collections and dances have helped the funds; clothes have been collected and packed. **Wellingborough** **Toc H Male Voice Choir** organised a concert by the leading choirs in the town, and a full house raised over £50. The new Branches at **Brixworth** and **Aylestone** have received their Lamps at well supported occasions. The Branches at **East Leake** and **Dogsthorpe** will be receiving their Lamps shortly. The group at **Weldon**, a growing dormitory for the steel works at Corby, is making progress and M. Wallis at Weldon P.O. would welcome names of men living or arriving in those parts. Christmas parties were held for old and young, for crippled and blind. Carol Parties at **Anstey** and **Ashby** have provided funds for activities later in the year. The Branches at **Countesthorpe**, **Broughton Astley** and **Market Harborough** held Christmas dinners for members and friends.

COLIN STEVENSON.



Leigh Chronicle

A T.V. set being presented to Atherleigh Grange, purchased out of the profits from the 'tuck shop' run there by Leigh Branch members.

MANCHESTER—Albert Tattum, the presiding genius of **Leigh Branch**, has hit the jack-pot again. His latest brain-child is a "Top Town" contest between Leigh and the nearby towns of Atherton and Tyldesley. After numerous nights of audition a final choice of fourteen acts played to packed "houses" in both Leigh and Atherton. The fact that the Leigh team were adjudged the winners is merely incidental. As the Branch treasurer tells us it was money all the way. People paid to hear the rehearsals and the artists came forward willingly. The final financial figure has not yet been ascertained—

FROM ALL PARTS

but we believe it to be over £60. The proceeds are to be divided between the local Spastic Children's appeal and a scheme that the Branch have for improving a Ward in the Leigh Infirmary, where they have been busy shaving patients who have been unable to obtain the services of a professional.

BILL TAYLOR.

E. LONDON—Wanstead have, for the third year running, been granted aid from the Wanstead & Woodford Council in the transportation of a Christmas tree from Stratford Market to George Green, Wanstead, for a united carol service. Hornchurch held barrel organ collections in aid of Hornchurch Old People's Welfare Committee and other charities.

MAYNE ELSON.

EAST MIDLANDS—Leicester. Marksmen of Mark XI again made a fine job of the Christmas decorations at Prebend House, Leicester, the world's most advanced full-time social centre for the blind. They also helped at the Christmas Party and Dance at the Centre on Saturday, 15 December, attended by 250 blind people and friends.

GERALD NEAL.

KENT—In past weeks Hungarian relief work has featured very largely in the activities of our Branches. Collections have been in the form of money, clothing, furniture, tinned foods and so many other necessities for these unfortunate people. Congratulations to our first Joint Unit at Bearsted on being recognised as such. Canterbury were responsible for a United Christmas Fayre, renting out stalls to many other organisations. It was a very successful event and provided a good opportunity for getting to know more about the work of other local bodies.

CYRIL CATTELL.

NORTHERN—Can we really endeavour to make this year in the Northern Area one for Extension in practical terms both in new growth and in existing Branches? Both in public and in private people are expressing the "need for the essence of Toc H" in the world to-day. The answer begins in group life with a living experience of a live and warm fellowship and helping men to grow and make their own contribution to the group backed by our personal encouragement and insight. The first meeting of the new Area Extension Team was held in January when they got down to working-out a programme.

CHARLES V. YOUNG.

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OPEN HUSTINGS

The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H. For reasons of space the right is reserved to shorten letters submitted, and every effort is made to print a representative selection from those received.

Thanks

I WANT to say "Thank You" to the Cambridge Branch of Toc H. They are such good friends to us in addition to doing much good work in Cambridge. They give us wonderful entertainments, help us run most enjoyable Whist Drives for the pleasure of the Old Folk. They decorate the house at Christmas and help in the garden in Summer. If I say that Toc H are coming, the old people look up and smile because they expect and get a good and happy evening.

If only the spirit of Toc H were spread further there would be so much more happiness, less sorrow and quarrels.

So I say Thank you and God bless all your works.

Alice J. WHITTAKER.

Matron.

Red Cross Home for Old People, Cambridge.

Women Members

RECENTLY Oldham and Rochdale (Tandle Hill District) at a joint meeting had a most interesting evening discussing the "advisability, or otherwise, of the admission of women to full membership of Toc H". We are not advocating the establishment of 'Mixed Units'.

After a detailed discussion we were of the unanimous opinion that the time is opportune for the

recognition of women members to full membership and parity with the men as members of the Movement. What do other Branches think?

GERALD STOTT.

Oldham Branch.

For the Record

I HAVE much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the considerable number of back copies of the Toc H JOURNAL which you have been kind enough to send us. We are greatly obliged to you for taking so much trouble to help us complete our file, which we can now bind for permanent preservation. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

R. F. KENNEDY.

*City Librarian,
Johannesburg.*

'Junior Toc H?'

CONGRATULATIONS to L. Giles and Cheriton Branch writing in the December JOURNAL for giving a lad, who is too young to become a member, an opportunity of learning the Toc H way at first hand. The tone of a Branch will determine its ability, or otherwise, to extend such invitations and where this is possible represents an ideal introduction to the Movement. The gain is reciprocal, for youth and age have much to learn from each other.

It should not be difficult to

introduce a form of junior membership within the existing set-up, this suggestion together with that of L. Giles for a Junior Toc H organisation might well be discussed by Branches, the conclusions reached being passed on through District Teams.

TOM MANTELL (Pilot)
Southville, Bristol.

'Signing-off'

"YOURS in Toc H" is a widely-used method of signing-off in letter-writing within the Movement, and I had never given the matter a second thought until my wife recently saw a letter I had received that morning so signed, which drew from her the immediate remark "Sounds as though he is only your friend because you are both members of Toc H" and inferring that "on parade, on parade" etc. I don't use this style of signing-off myself, but perhaps someone that does can explain why he does so?

G. M. B. TURNER.
Kennington, Kent.

Corneal Grafting

I HAVE read with interest articles in the October and December JOURNAL on Corneal Grafting and the need for donors. My interest is sympathetic and very personal, for on October 25 I had a corneal graft on my right eye.

For the past twenty-seven years I have had very defective vision and there was for me no known cure.

Now, thanks to the skill of modern surgery, I have sight—sight which is growing daily. I am not naturally excitable, but I shall never forget the wonder and thrill of the moment when the doctors took the pads from my

eye and I knew how successful the operation had been.

Thanks to the faith of that unknown donor, the skill of surgeons and the prayers of friends in and out of Toc H, a miracle had happened.

I am still receiving treatment and a further operation may be necessary to achieve perfect sight for me. I was told at the outset that there might have to be two grafts for complete success. These things are not accomplished by the waving of a magic wand. Much patience is needed and most important of all, corneae.

From my own very personal experience I commend the appeal for donors, to your very urgent consideration.

RON MITCHELL.
Canterbury Branch.

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